

**From the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)
First Quarter 2005
Comparison of Six of the Largest Texas Urban Areas**

Texas Metro/Urban Areas	Composite Index	Grocery Items	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Miscellaneous Goods & Services
Austin, TX (Austin-Round Rock, TX Metro)	91.5	86.7	80.5	98.0	89.3	104.0	99.6
Dallas, TX (Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX Metro)	91.7	91.6	75.5	103.8	102.3	100.8	97.8
El Paso, TX (El Paso, TX Metro)	89.3	95.1	75.1	98.0	97.4	98.5	93.4
Ft. Worth (Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX Metro)	89.3	89.7	76.7	102.5	92.6	109.0	92.7
Houston, TX (Houston-Sugarland-Baytown, TX Metro)	88.7	84.2	74.4	102.6	97.5	98.9	94.7
San Antonio, TX (San Antonio, TX Metro)	87.9	79.0	87.6	68.9	83.7	99.3	96.8

**ACCRA Cost of Living Index
First Quarter 2005
National Average for 294 Urban Areas = 100
(Comparing Houston, Texas to the 1 – 10th Ranked Most Expensive Urban Areas)**

RANKING	URBAN AREAS	COL INDEX
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	203.9
2	San Francisco, CA	178.7
3	San Jose, CA	167.2
4	Honolulu, HI	156.9
5	Los Angeles – Long Beach, CA	153.7
6	Orange County, CA	152.8
7	Oakland, CA	150.7
8	Stamford, CT	148.0
9	San Diego, CA	146.9
10	Nassau County, NY	144.1
N/A	Houston, TX	88.7

The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 50,000 prices covering almost 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The *composite index* is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous good and services.